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SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to explain my vote in committee on the committee amendments. I don't necessarily disagree with the outcome of the committee amendments not offering the board insurance, if that's what we do...we want or if the board agrees with that. But I do disagree with the premise that this is unconstitutional. I think if you take this to a logical end, it could call into question a lot of insurance that we apply to elected officials all across the state from...and also to judges. And I don't think that that's good policy, and I don't think that it's unconstitutional as we look at compensation. This is normally taken as a benefit and not regarded in the same way as we regard compensation under the Constitution. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Hartnett, could I ask you a couple questions?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Hartnett, would you respond?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yes.

SENATOR BOURNE: Reading the committee statement, and it indicated that this bill is similar to LB 901, which was passed last year that had a provision for the board to let their members have or participate in the insurance program? Is that correct?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yes, that's correct.

SENATOR BOURNE: So, we did that for the public power districts, but then we discovered that this possibly could be...or is someone suggesting that this is unconstitutional, if we allow members of an elected board to have insurance benefits or participate in the insurance plan?

SENATOR HARTNETT: That's our belief, yes.

SENATOR BOURNE: And that's based on...